



# THE MESSENGER

The weekly review of the Parish of

*St Michael and All Angels*

Watford

EASTER 6

29 May 2011

A warm welcome to our services today.

At the 9.30 am Eucharist Fr Geoff celebrates and preaches and Sarah Dunning leads the intercessions. There is Sunday School and a crèche is available.

**Hymns: 368, 391, 258, 514**

**Setting: Rawsthorne**

Tea and coffee will be served in church after the 9.30 service and there will be a Bring-&-Buy Sale – please stay on.

Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel is at 6.00pm.

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## **For your prayers this week:**

**The Church:** The Bishop and People of Northern Michigan, USA  
The Weddings Project, and all churches and couples planning weddings  
The Anglican Church in Aoterea, New Zealand and Polynesia

**The World:** Constructive relationships between Britain, Ireland, and the USA  
Those struggling to build free and democratic societies in the Arab world  
A just and peaceful solution between Israel and the Palestinian people

**The Community and Parish:** All who will help at, and attend, Celebration 2011  
Dorothy Thornhill, our elected mayor, and Richard Harrington our MP  
Our Sunday School, Creche, Youth and Toddler leaders and helpers

**The Ill and the Housebound:** Especially Christopher Bilson, Mary Calvert, Peter Coley, Bill and Marion Craddock-Jones, Jean Crouch, Kate Dickinson, Darrell Dunning, David and Janet Freeman, Jocelyn Harewood, Susetta Hartropp, Ben Heath, Gladys Holloway, Leena Hosie, Jenny Houghton, Mary Kearns, Dorothy Kiddle, Lesley Kinch, Vera Levinson, Loretta Lynch, Jacqui Lyons, Maggie Maguire, Stella Nicholas, Faith Nkugwa, Dorcas Ochola, Gaynor Osbourne, Helen Perry, Myrtle Powell, Bryony Purse, June Tatnall, Eric and Anne Wightman.

**The Departed:** Earl Hutchinson

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**Collect**

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING Acts 17.22–31**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- <sup>22</sup> Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.
- <sup>23</sup> For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.
- <sup>24</sup> The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,
- <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.
- <sup>26</sup> From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,
- <sup>27</sup> so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us.
- <sup>28</sup> For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.”
- <sup>29</sup> Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.
- <sup>30</sup> While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,
- <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

**SECOND READING I Peter 3.13–22**

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

- <sup>13</sup> Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

<sup>14</sup> But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated,  
<sup>15</sup> but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you;  
<sup>16</sup> yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.  
<sup>17</sup> For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.  
<sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit,  
<sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,  
<sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.  
<sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
<sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## **GOSPEL John 14.15–21**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

<sup>15</sup> 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.  
<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever.  
<sup>17</sup> This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.  
<sup>18</sup> I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.  
<sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.  
<sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.  
<sup>21</sup> They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

## THIS WEEK

Mon	30	May	<i>Bank Holiday. Start of Half Term</i> NO Toddlers' Group CELEBRATION 2011 – see Notices below	11.00am – 5.00pm
Wed	1	June	Coffee in Church Bring-&Share Lunch	10.30am-12 noon 12.30pm
Thur	2	June	ASCENSION DAY Holy Communion (Order One in Traditional Language) Choir Practice SUNG EUCHARIST	10.00am 8.00pm
Sat	6	June	Parish Walk	leave church at 10.00am
Sun	5	June	<b><u>SUNDAY after ASCENSION</u></b> Holy Communion <b>SUNG EUCHARIST:</b> crèche and Sunday School Evening Prayer	8.00am <b>9.30am</b> 6.00pm

## NOTICES

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK** – For many years St Michael's has taken part in the street collection in Watford. Unfortunately, it has been getting more difficult to find people willing to go out and knock on doors for donations. Using different methods of fund-raising in 2010 we sent just over £900 to Christian Aid. **IF YOU NORMALLY PUT SOMETHING IN AN ENVELOPE AND NO C.A. ENVELOPE HAS COME THROUGH YOUR DOOR THIS WEEK, WOULD YOU PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CHRISTIAN AID AND PLACE ONE OF THE ENVELOPES IN THE BOX AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.** Thank you.

**CELEBRATION! 2011** Due to the refurbishment of the Colosseum this annual fun day will be held at the Multi Cultural Community Centre, Littlebury Hall and St Michael & All Angels Church on Bank Holiday Monday, 30 May from 11 am-5 pm. Tea and coffee will be served in St Michael's throughout the day and Gill Heath would like to hear from people who could volunteer to serve it on a rota basis. We also need help in staffing our stall, and setting up at from 7.00pm tonight. This is a great opportunity to welcome people from all over Watford into St Michael's, and show them what we are about.

**BRING-AND-SHARE LUNCH:** Wednesday, 1 June 2011, at 12.30 pm. Please sign the list at the back of the church.

**PARISH WALK:** Saturday, 6 June. Please sign the list on the signings table.

**PENDLEY SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL:** Please sign the list if you are interested in going to this. There is more information in the May Sword.

**CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES:** The time has come for these to be emptied and the proceeds sent to the Children's Society. Please let Norma have your box soon.

St Michael and All Angels PCC is a Registered Charity No 1132010